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In general, the opening of economic activities as well as climate change phenomenon have various effects on the environment in 2022. The changes in weather condition with heavier rain resulted one of the worst landslides in Malaysia's history that occurred in Batang Kali on December 16th 2022.

The maximum mean temperature recorded from 42 stations showed a decrease in 24 stations between 0.1°C - 0.6°C while nine stations recorded an increase between 0.1°C - 0.3°C as compared to 2021 due to La Niña season. Ipoh station recorded the highest mean temperature in 2022 at 33.1°C, while Cameron Highland recorded a lowest mean temperature at 15.8°C.

The annual rainfall in 22 stations showed an increase between 26.0 mm - 1,749.4 mm. Mulu station remained with the highest amount of rainfall at 6,172.8 mm in 2022 (2021: 5,365.8 mm). Meanwhile, the lowest amount of rainfall registered at Sitiawan station with 1,943.0 mm as compared to the previous year at Keningau station (1,589.2 mm). Kerteh station recorded the highest increase in rainfall with an increment of 1,749.4 mm to 4,501.0 mm in 2022 (2021: 2,751.6 mm).

In tandem with decrease in COVID-19 cases in 2022, Malaysia has reopened its borders and all economic activities and these have a direct impact on the environment. The COVID-19 cases declined from 2,645,076 cases in 2021 to 2,268,591 cases in 2022.

The decreased in COVID-19 cases led to reduced in the clinical wastes created as there were less usage of personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 test equipment following the closing of quarantine centers. The quantity of clinical wastes contracted by 14.4 per cent in 2022 to 49.1 thousand metric tonnes as compared to 57.4 thousand metric tonnes in 2021. This gives some relief for the management of clinical wastes site after two consecutive years of sharp rise. There were three states that recorded the largest amount of clinical wastes namely Selangor (10.6 thousand metric tonnes), W.P. Kuala Lumpur (5.8 thousand metric tonnes) and Sarawak (4.7 thousand metric tonnes).

In addition, the number of passengers handled at the airport rebounded strongly after two years of hiatus due to the closing of borders as one of the measures taken by most countries including Malaysia to contain the spread of COVID-19. The number of passengers handled at the airport grew by 394.5 per cent due to base effect to 54.9 million passengers as compared to 11.1 million passengers in 2021. However, the level achieved in 2022 remained below the pre COVID-19 level registered in 2019 (109.5 million passengers). The Tourist Sattelite Account (TSA) published by DOSM showed the same trend as Total Gross Value Added of Tourism Industries rose to RM251.5 billion as compared to RM198.5 billion in 2021.



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